

NOAA and the Preserve America Initiative

How You Can Help Preserve, Protect, and Promote NOAA's Heritage Resources



NOAA has a great history to share. You can help bring it to light!

The Preserve America Initiative: A Call to Action

Through his *Preserve America* executive order (E.O. 13287), President Bush has called on NOAA and other federal agencies to:

- step up efforts to inventory, preserve, and showcase federally-managed historic and cultural “heritage” resources and
- foster heritage tourism in partnership with local communities and the private sector.

NOAA is equal to the challenge!

NOAA is already working to preserve our heritage resources—from historic maps and charts to buildings and shipwrecks—and make them accessible to the public through innovative programs and partnerships. A few of those efforts are highlighted in the following pages.

But we can and must do more—and you can help! This brochure explains how.

“Preserve America is a White House initiative... to protect and restore our nation’s cultural and natural resources—from mountains and buildings to landscapes and main streets.”

—First Lady Laura Bush



Help Preserve America! Visit: preserveamerica.noaa.gov

NOAA Has a Rich Collection of Heritage Resources

As the nation's oldest scientific agency, NOAA has in its care a wealth of heritage resources that recall the agency's proud history and dedicated service to the nation.

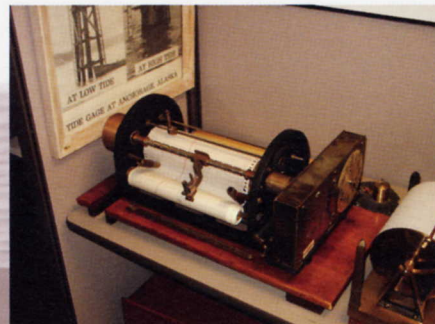
NOAA's heritage resources include photographs, books, charts, maps, scientific instruments, and other artifacts—some centuries old.

Whether it's a nautical chart plate engraved in the 1850s, a tidal gauge developed in the 1890s, or an original hurricane bulletin issued in early 1900s, it tells a story about the evolution of NOAA and, indeed, the United States.

Some NOAA facilities themselves may be considered heritage resources due to their historic status or unique architectural interests.

The Preserve America initiative is about making such resources accessible and available to the public, their true owners.

In many ways, NOAA is a leader when it comes to preserving America's heritage. Following are just a few NOAA heritage resource success stories...



A pre-World War II U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey tide gauge on display at NOAA's Silver Spring, Maryland campus.
Photo: David Hall



Among NOAA's heritage resources is this 1777 map of Chesapeake Bay drawn from original surveys.
Photo: David Hall

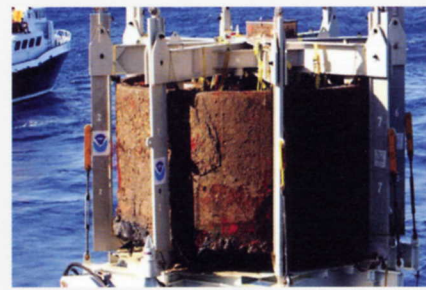


A commemorative weather balloon radiosonde presented in 1975 to National Weather Service Director Dr. George Cressman. Photo: David Hall

Success Story

Saving History: The USS Monitor

NOAA protects the wreck of one of the most famous vessels in U.S. history: the Civil War ironclad *USS Monitor*. Best known for its battle with the Confederate ironclad *Virginia* in Hampton Roads, Virginia, on March 9, 1862, the *Monitor* was a technological marvel that revolutionized naval warfare. Since 1975, when the *Monitor* was designated the first national marine sanctuary, NOAA and its partners have worked to recover and conserve artifacts from the vessel, including the propeller, steam engine, and revolving gun turret. Through underwater archaeology and state-of-the-art marine technology, NOAA's *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary strives to preserve this significant part of our maritime heritage for future generations. Artifacts recovered from the *Monitor* are on display at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia. The *Monitor* has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1974.



NOAA and the U.S. Navy successfully recovered the *Monitor*'s revolving gun turret—the world's first—on August 5, 2002. Photo: NOAA *Monitor* Collection

Success Story

Fort Crockett: From Army Base to NOAA Fisheries Lab

In 1970, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service became the steward and primary occupant of historic Fort Crockett in

Galveston, Texas. Established in the 1890s and named for Alamo defender Davy Crockett, the fort served as a U.S. Army garrison, World War II prisoner-of-war camp, and recreation center. In 1950, the fort became home to a Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Laboratory. Since then, it has become a hub of fisheries research in the Gulf of Mexico. Thousands of people visit the lab each year to learn about sea turtle recovery efforts, wetlands restoration, essential fish habitat research and shrimp fishery management. A ceremony in January of 2000 highlighted the preservation of historic buildings on the grounds of Fort Crockett and commemorated 50 years of fishery research at the site.

See preserveamerica.noaa.gov for more success stories!



Restored Fort Crockett building. Photo courtesy NMFS / Galveston.

Success Story **The NOAA Library: Preserving NOAA's Past for America's Future**

Perhaps the largest repository of NOAA heritage resources is the NOAA Library. The library traces its origin to F.R. Hassler, the first superintendent of the Coast Survey, who established a collection a few years after that agency was formed in 1807. Today, it houses documents and artifacts from each of NOAA's ancestor agencies, including the U.S. Weather Bureau, the Coast and Geodetic Survey and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. Among the library's holdings is the largest, most comprehensive meteorological collection in the Western Hemisphere. These resources have proven



Map from the NOAA Library collection showing the circumpolar area and the supposed open polar sea. Photo: photolib.noaa.gov

critical for studies of past weather, climate change, and oceanographic conditions. About 40 percent of the items in the NOAA Library's collection are unique, and not found anywhere else in the world. The library recently launched a dynamic Web site, www.history.noaa.gov, celebrating nearly 200 years of NOAA science and service. In addition to serving as NOAA's "institutional memory," the library supports ongoing research by NOAA staff, academia, industry, and the public.



A variety of NOAA heritage resources are on display at the NOAA Library in Silver Spring, Maryland. Photo: David Hall

Success Story

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve: Connecting the Public to the Past through Partnerships

The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve protects a nationally significant collection of more than 100 shipwrecks in Lake Huron that span over a century of Great Lakes maritime history. Managed by NOAA and the State of Michigan, the Thunder Bay sanctuary and preserve collaborates with lighthouses, coastal parks, and marinas to provide opportunities for the public to learn about and enjoy the maritime heritage of Thunder Bay. The sanctuary and preserve is also working in partnership with local governments to develop a maritime heritage center, which will provide interpretive outreach programs for residents and tourists. As part of NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary System, Thunder Bay receives national media attention and has access to cutting edge educational, research and monitoring expertise. Future activities will include live video hook-ups in school classrooms showing researchers diving on Thunder Bay shipwrecks, the development of an interpretive "shipwreck trail," and other maritime heritage education programs for local residents and tourists.



Students on board the *Denis Sullivan* at the annual Tall Ships Festival at Thunder Bay, Michigan. Photo: TBNMS&UP

Tell us your heritage resource preservation success story at preserveamerica.noaa.gov!

We Can Do More to Support Preserve America

NOAA is committed to meeting and exceeding the goals of the Preserve America initiative. To that end, NOAA will do the following:

- *Identify and inventory heritage resources* – NOAA line offices will be queried about existing heritage resources in their inventory. If we don't know what we have, we can't preserve, protect, and promote it!
- *Develop a heritage resource conservation and preservation plan* – NOAA line offices will be asked what they are doing to preserve NOAA's heritage resources, both in house and in the field.
- *Develop and expand NOAA partnerships* – NOAA line offices will be encouraged to leverage existing partnerships and identify new ones to promote the mutual benefits of preserving our nation's heritage resources.
- *Develop a heritage resource education and outreach plan* – NOAA line offices will be asked to propose education and outreach projects that tell NOAA's story and promote the benefits of preservation to the public.

Get involved today in Preserve America!

What You Can Do

- **Share your heritage resource success story!** – Visit *preserveamerica.noaa.gov* to highlight your office or program's efforts to preserve, protect, and promote NOAA's heritage resources.
- **Join the NOAA Heritage Resource Team!** – Help inventory NOAA heritage resources or promote NOAA's heritage resources at the office or in your community. To learn how, visit *preserveamerica.noaa.gov*.
- **Stay tuned for more about Preserve America!** – Check *preserveamerica.noaa.gov* for updates about what NOAA and other federal agencies are doing to meet the goals of the Preserve America initiative.

For more information, contact:

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Cover Photos

Upper left: Fort Crockett building. Photo: Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.

Upper right: U.S. Weather Bureau rain gauge in Midvale, Utah, circa 1930.
Photo: Historic NWS Collection

Lower left: USS *Monitor* and crew. Photo: NOAA *Monitor* Collection

Lower right: USFC schooner GRAMPUS. Photo: Paul Galtsoff, courtesy NEFSC

Screened image: The United States Fish Commission Steamer *ALBATROSS*.
Archival photography by Steve Nicklas, NOS, NGS.

May 2004

